

TM

THE DEADLY DUO

TM

image

4

OCT

\$2.50

\$3.50
CANADA



PIRATE SCANS!



image comics presents:

THE **DEADLY** **DUO**™

**TOM & MARY
BIERBAUM**

Writers

JOHN CLEARY

Penciller • Inker

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS

Letterer

**REUBEN RUDE
& ANTONIA KOHL**

Colors

I.H.O.C. & OLYOPTICS

Color Separations

ERIK LARSEN

Creator • Editor

GARRETT CHIN

Asst. to the Chief Executive

JOSH EICHORN

Has a Bee Hive Hairdo and Calls Everybody "Honey"

IMAGE COMICS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

LARRY MARDER

DIR. OF SALES & MARKETING

BEAU SMITH

ART DIRECTOR:

DOUG GRIFFITH

ASST. TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM

DISTRIBUTION:

GERMAINE ZACHARIAH

PUBLISHER:

TONY LOBITO

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

KENNY FELIX

TRAFFIC:

RONNA COULTER

PRODUCTION:

TERESA CESPEDES

ASST. TO PUBLISHER:

SHAY CROCKER

THE DEADLY DUO #4 (of 4), October 1995. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics P.O. Box 25468 Anaheim, CA 92825. THE DEADLY DUO™, KILL-CAT™, KID AVENGER™, DART™, RADIATOR™, LAFF-A-LOTT™ and all other related characters are Copyright© and Trademark Erik Larsen 1995. RIPTIDE™ is trademark and copyright© Rob Liefeld Inc. 1995. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Erik Larsen. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

Printed in Canada



HIGHBROW
ENTERTAINMENT

...SO, WAIT
A MINUTE.
WHAT'S THAT
FALLING THROUGH
THE SKY?



UM, I
AM NOT
SURE.

A BUS.

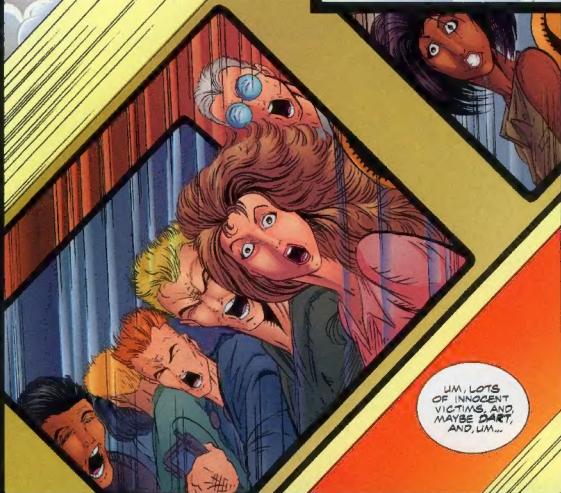
A BUS.
YOU'RE
SERIOUS.



YES, A
BUS IS FALLING
THROUGH DER
SKY.



DO WE
KNOW WHO'S
ON IT?



UM, LOTS
OF INNOCENT
VICTIMS, AND
MAYBE DART,
AND, UM...



LAFF
-A-
LOT!



LAFF-A-LOT?!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT IS THE
POINT OF
THIS?!

THE POINT,
MY DEAR DART,
IS TO SHOW THAT
OVER-MUSCLED
BOY SCOUT, KILL-
CAT, THAT IF
HE CAN'T HAVE YOU,
HE CAN'T HAVE
YOU!



WAIT A
MINUTE, THE NAME
IS SHARPE, NOT
DART. THE LAWYERS
INSISTED ON
THAT.

AND SINCE
WHEN HAS LAFF-
A-LOT BEEN
INTERESTED IN
ME?



SINCE
RIGHT
NOW!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS.
GO WHAT'S KILL-CAT
GONNA DO? FLY OUT
OF THE SKY AND
CATCH US?



IN A
MANNER UP
SPEAKING.



HOLY
SHEBOYBAN!
IT'S KILL-
CAT!



AND KID
AVENGER,
RIGHT?

JUST
"AVENGER,"
YOU'RE A
DOG.



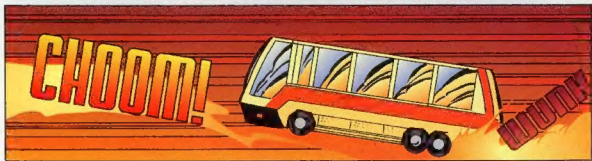
A
DOGT! I'M
A DOGT!

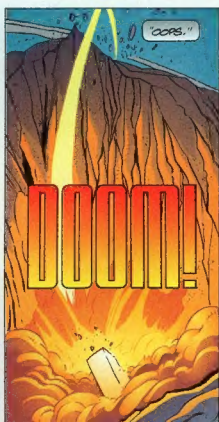
A
TALKING
DOG.



OH THANKS
THAT'S MUCH
BETTER.

HOLD ON
NOW, ZIG IS
GOING TO BE
TRICKY.









WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T HAVE A JET PLANE.

AND I'M NOT A DOG.



SECOND OF ALL, IN THIS NEW CLIMAX, I DON'T REALLY DO ANYTHING, DO I? I MEAN, THE JET DOES EVERYTHING.

AND I'M NOT A DOG.



HOW ABOUT IF I WALK OUT ON THE WING AND GRAB SHARPE, THEN BLOW AWAY LAFF-A-LOT WITH AN UZI I'M CARRYING.

AND HOW ABOUT IF I'M NOT A DOG.

WOULDN'T THAT BE COOL?



SO WHO IS FLYING DER PLANE?

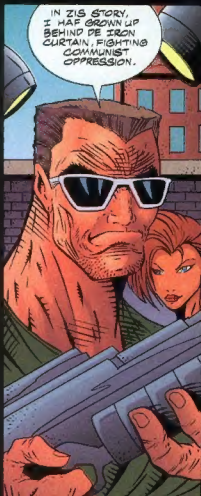


THE DOG'S FLYING THE PLANE!

THE DOG?!

OF COURSE!

JA, I LIKE IT.

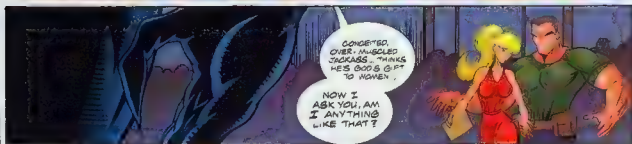




MR KILL-CAT.
YOU CAN HAF YOUR
MOVIE MADE WITH
ME AND GROSS ONE-
HUNDRED-M LLION
DOLLARS. OR YOU CAN
HAF IT MADE WITHOUT
ME AND OPEN ON
HOMEY DEC.



YOUR
CHOICE



CONCEDED.
OVER-MUSCLED
JACKASS. THINKS
HE'S GOD'S GIFT
TO WOMEN.

NOW I
ASK YOU, AM
I ANYTHING
LIKE THAT?



...UMMM...

JIM
WHAT?

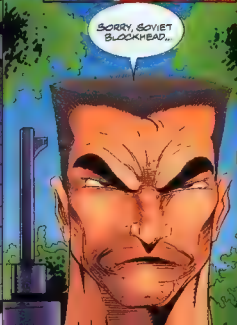
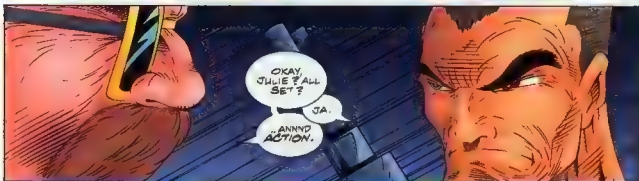
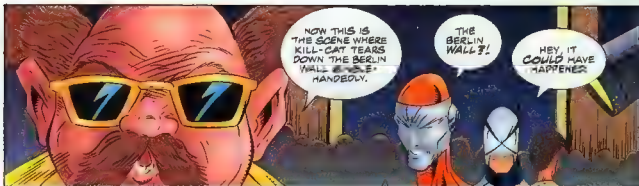
NO NO,
OF COURSE
NOT.

THE ACCENT'S
COMPLETELY
WRONG.

EXACTLY. IT'S
RIDICULOUS.

HEY, AT
LEAST YOUR
CHARACTER DOESN'T
GO AROUND
RELIEVING H.MSELF
ON FIRE HYDRANTS.

I'VE HEARD
DIFFERENT.





...I CHANGE
HISTORY.

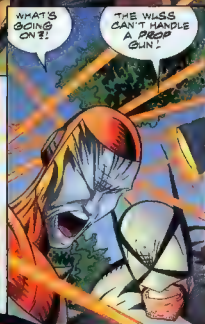
YOU ARE
HISTORY.

BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA



H-MEY!

WHAT
DER--?



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

THE WLSS
CAN'T HANDLE
A PROP
GUN!



HEH-HEH,
PERFECT.

NO ONE
WILL EVER
KNOW WHO
THE REAL
TARGET
IS.



JUST HOLD
STILL ONE SECOND
MORE, ACTION
HERO...

WAIT A
MINUTE! THOSE
AREN'T BLANKS!
THAT'S LIVE
AMMO!



COME ON,
AVENGER,
LET'S GO!

DAMN.

...THAT'S "KID
AVENGER"...

BETTER
USE MY BOOT
JETS!

HA! I'D
LIKE TO SEE
THEM GET A
DOO TO DO
THIS!

THEY COULDN'T
DO IT! NO, S.R.
PROBABLY NOT--
THERE'S A VERY
GOOD CHANCE
THAT THEY
COULDN'T.

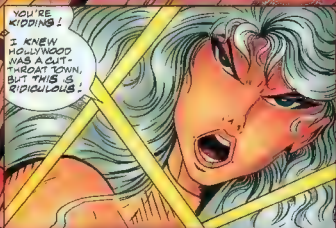
HMM

I WOULD
HAVE TO SAY
THAT THEY--
MOST LIKELY--
COULDN'T.

THEY'VE
GOT THOSE
FUNNY BACK
LEGS AND
ALL...

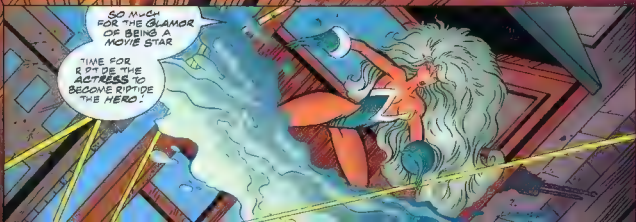
ANYWAY
BACK TO THE
SITUATION AT
HAND...

THOSE
ACTORS ARE
SITTING DUCKS
--UNLESS--

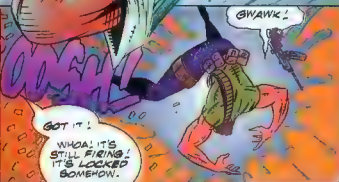
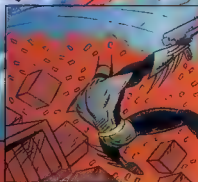


SO MUCH
FOR THE GLAMOR
OF BEING A
MOVIE STAR

TIME FOR
RIPIDE THE
ACTRESS TO
BECOME RIPIDE
THE HERO!



FIRST
THING ON
THE AGENDA IS
SEPARATE THE
GUN FROM THE
ACTOR.

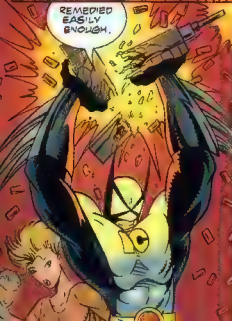


SWANK!

GOT IT!

WHOA! IT'S
STILL FIRING!
IT'S LOCKED
SOMEHOW.

REMEDIED
EASILY
ENOUGH.



NICE JOB
CAT.

THANKS, BABE,
BUT SORRY,
DART'S ALREADY
GOT HIS SON
ME.

TRY TO
IMAGINE HOW
LITTLE I
CARE.



WH-WHAT
HAPPENED?

OH MY
GOD.

GET OUR
ATTORNEYS
DOWN HERE
RIGHT AWAY.

MAN, IS
OUR BLOOPERS
REEL GONNA
BE BITCHIN' OR
WHAT?

HOPE THE
CAMERA GOT
MY GOOD
SIDE.

Y-YOU
SAVED MY
LIFE...

THAT'S
OKAY, MISS,
I WAS
JUST...

OH MY
GOD.

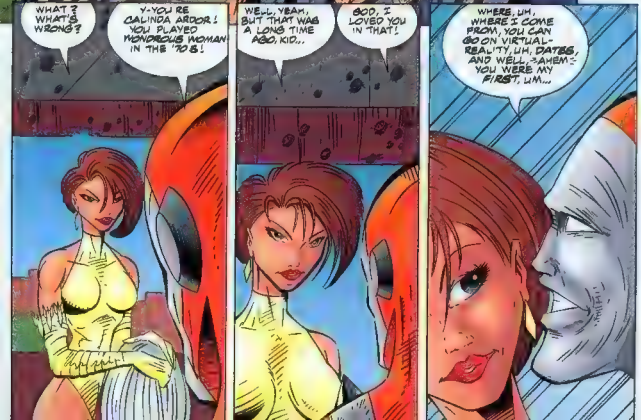
WHAT?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

Y-YOU'RE
CALINDA ARDOR!
YOU PLAYED
MONDRIUS WOMAN
IN THE '70S!

WE-L, YEAM,
BUT THAT WAS
A LONG TIME
AGO, KID...

GOD, I
LOVED YOU
IN THAT!

WHERE, UM,
WHERE I CAME
FROM, YOU CAN
GO ON VIRTUAL-
REALITY, UM, DATES,
AND WELL, SAHEM-
YOU WERE MY
FIRST, UM...



SORRY, MS. ARDOR! THIS POOR KID IS A LITTLE LOVE-STRUCK

BUT--

DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN.

THAT'S OKAY. NO BOTHER AT ALL.

...AND THEY STILL DON'T KNOW HOW THE PROP GUN GOT JAMMED OR WHERE THE LIVE AMMUNITION CAME FROM?

THAT'S WHAT I UNDERSTAND.

BUT WITH KILL-CAT AND RIP-TIDE AND THAT WONDERFUL KID AVENGER ON THE SET, I'M SURE WE'RE IN GOOD HANDS.

-SIGH-
ISN'T SHE SOMETHING?

GIVE 'A REST. SHE ISN'T INTERESTED IN A KID LIKE YOU.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE THE POOR THING HAS CLEARLY BEEN WORKING UP THE COURAGE TO SAY SHE HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH ME.

OH.

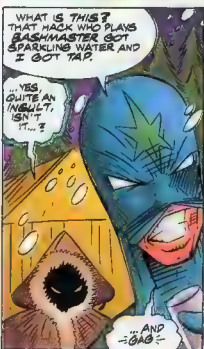
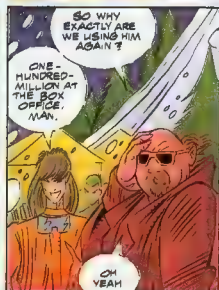
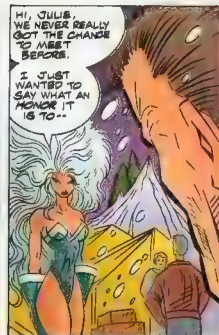
DARN, I GUESS I WON'T BE NEEDING THIS THEN

WHAT'S THAT?

SHE GAVE ME THE KEY TO HER DRESSING ROOM.

NOBODY LIKES A WISE GUY!

PUNT





ALL RIGHT,
GO, TULIP! GO,
RIPTIDE!

JUST
FOLLOW MY
LEAD, BABE.
YOU'LL BE
FINE.

...GEEZ, I'LL
NEVER COMPLAIN
ABOUT THE EGGS
AT YOUNGBLOOD
AGAIN...



OKAY, ONE
CHOPPER, ANNN
ACTION!



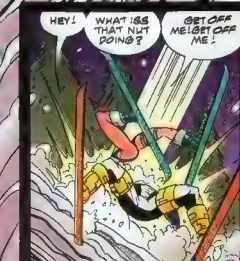
RIPTIDE,
LOOK OUT!
IT'S HER
LEAVE HE
ROOM!



THAT'S
RADIATOR
AT THE
CONTROLS!



OKAY,
BOO-MAN!AC,
EAT THIS!



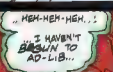
HEY!

WHAT IS
THAT NUT
DOING?

GET OFF
ME! GET OFF
ME!



ARE YOU
CRAZY? THIS
IS NO TIME TO
AD-LIB!



...HEH-HEH-HEH...
I HAVEN'T
BEGUN TO
AD-LIB...







HEY, LOOK
AT ME! I'M
A SURFER-
DUDE!

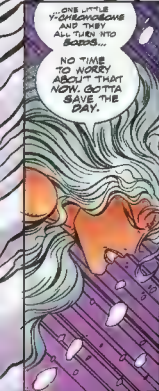
THANKS FOR
THE ASSIST
CAT-MAN! THAT
DUMBLES-ACTOR
HAD ME PINNED
DOWN.

HUH, BET
YOU WISH YOU
COULD THANK
ME MORE
PERSONALLY
LATER ON!

GEE, YOU
CAN READ
ME LIKE A
BOOK.

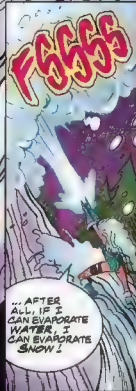


AWK!



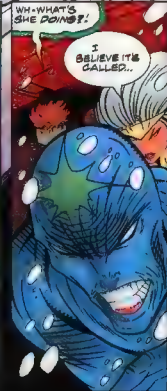
...ONE LITTLE
Y-CHEERBOONE
AND THEY
ALL TURN INTO
BOOBS...

NO TIME
TO WORRY
ABOUT THAT
NOW. GOTTA
SAVE THE
DAY.



FAGGGG

... AFTER
ALL, IF I
CAN EVAPORATE
WATER, I
CAN EVAPORATE
SNOW!



WH-WHAT'S
SHE DOING?

I
BELIEVE IT'S
CALLED...

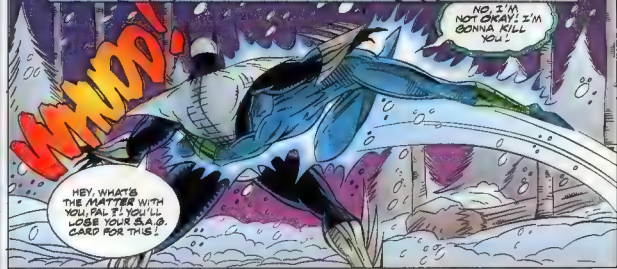


KICKING
BUTT!

GIAAAAH!



HEY, BUDDY,
THAT WAS QUITE
A FALL. ARE
YOU OKAY?



NO, I'M
NOT OKAY. I'M
GONNA KILL
YOU!

HEY, WHAT'S
THE MATTER WITH
YOU, PAL?! YOU'LL
LOSE YOUR S.A.O.
CARD FOR THIS!



I'M NOT
AN ACTOR, YOU
MORON! I'M
THE REAL
THING!

RADIATOR,
REALLY?
I DIDN'T RECOG-
NIZE YOU.
HOW YA
DOING?



HOW
AM I
DOING
?!

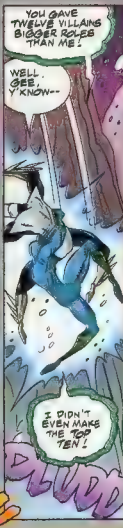
NOT SO
WELL, AS
A MATTER
OF FACT!

WHY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?



I SHOULD'VE
BEEN THE MAIN
VILLAIN OF THIS
MOVIE. THAT'S
WHAT'S
WRONG!

OH,
UH...



YOU GAVE
TWELVE VILLAINS
BIGGER ROLES
THAN ME!

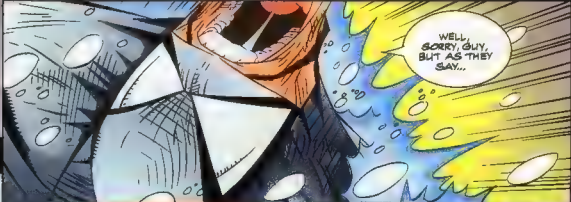
WELL,
GEE,
Y'KNOW--

I DIDN'T
EVEN MAKE
THE TOP
TEN!



YOU GAVE
DEATH YAK
A BIGGER
ROLE THAN
ME!

DEATH
YAK!



WELL,
SORRY, GUY,
BUT AS THEY
SAY...



THAT'S SHOW
BUSINESS!

WHAT-?!



SO THIS
IS THE BEST
YOU CAN
DO?

THE GREAT
KILL-CAT CAN
THINK OF NOTHING
MORE CLEVER THAN
SLIDING ME OUT
ONTO A FROZEN
LAKE?

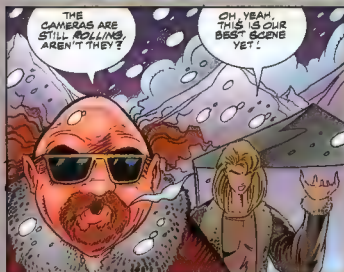
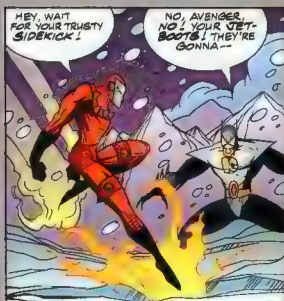
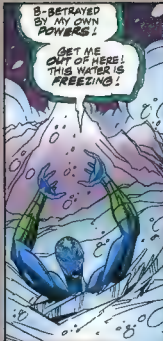


YOU THINK
YOU CAN BEAT
ME BY
SIMPLY--

WAIT A
MINUTE...

KER-

PLUNK!



KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

Welcome to the fourth and final issue of the *Deadly Duo* (for now, anyway). I'd like to thank Jeff Mariotte and Tom & Mary Bierbaum for writing the final two issues of this series, Chris Eliopoulos for the swell lettering, Reuben Rude, Antonia Kohl and IHOC for most of the coloring and a big thanks to Todd McFarlane, Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld for letting me use their characters. And last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank John Cleary for pencilling and inking this mini-series. Good job, guys.

Now, on to your letters...

Dear Erik,

If because of nothing else, *The Deadly Duo* #3 was good fun because of the cameos made by little more than a dozen super-powered antagonists whom we all know from several other Image or Image related comic book series. It sure turned out to be a nice pastime to try and find out from which title each individual super-villain comes. Above that, although we only got to see these fellas work together for a little while, they did so quite well. I guess this merely is another aspect from my childhood fantasies about ultimate bad guy team-ups—I spent quite some time thinking up my dream-team of all-time malicious villains! This issue, therefore, came close to being something of fulfilling that very dream.

Apart from that, I'm almost sorry to say that the rest of the issue's story didn't do all that much for me. Granted, Jeff Mariotte is a very good and intelligent writer and I'm usually able to derive great pleasures from reading his material, whether they be comic book tales or columns in magazines. Yet somehow, his take on the two *Deadly Duo* characters didn't turn out to be quite satisfactory, mainly because he turned Kill-Cat and Kid Avenger into something close to supporting characters because of the way the story was set-up on the one hand and the many guest-appearances on the other. Another reason why the tale didn't do that much for me was the fact that while Grunge was supposed to be the main attraction as far as guest-appearance are concerned, his role in the events turned out to be almost negligible and not pivotal to the story itself.

The main catalyst of the issue—the mysterious and innovative toaster—started out as a nice idea, though, as was the inclusion of the woman named Marcia Brady and Kid Avenger's subsequent mix-up involving her and an almost forgotten television character. Unfortunately, the toaster ended up being a bit too much of a *deus ex machina*, wrapping up the story quickly and without doing any harm to the continuity of the books each guest-star came from. The Marcia Brady running gag, on the other hand, was quite nice, although perhaps it could have been used more often throughout the whole issue.

To end this letter the way it began—namely on a positive note—I should not forget to add that I feel John Cleary's artwork is slowly growing on me. Again with the help of some bright and vibrant colors, John managed to keep the pages very accessi-

ble, and his lay-out are undoubtedly improving with each and every issue. Who knows, when issue #4 rolls around within the next month or so, I might as well end up liking every aspect of John's artwork. Miracles have happened before, so...

Olav Beemer
The Netherlands
Europe

So, what's your final verdict now that you've seen this issue?

Dear Erik & Co.,

I have mixed reactions on DD II #3. To wit...

Liked it: Kid Avenger's dudst! Just think of the action figure possibilities! Disco Inferno Street Clothes Kid Avenger and the Is-he-white-black-or-hispanic Alex conundrum of days gone by. And another thing: Wasn't my beloved Lotta (drool) Top a red-head?

Liked it: The whole teleportation toaster conundrum. Finally, an explanation as to why so many villains just happen to be in the same place at the same time for a donnybrook! And the highlight was "No-Name" (unique = cool) bringing a loaf of bread with him! It was so ridiculously implausible, it was classic!

Didn't like it: Grunge. Can't stand him. Never could. I hope his girlfriend gets lung cancer. I think he's the most annoying character in comicdom this side of "The Writer of Fluff." But hey, that's just me. I know the guest-shot couldn't have hurt sales any, and because I just love this comic, I can live with it.

Overall, I give the ish a slight "thumbs up," but it was sub-par compared to others.

Fanboys stupid question time:

- 1) Is this the first recorded time that Freefall has been shown anywhere without the gratuitous "bad girl" cigarette sticking out of her face? Cool!
- 2) Will Kill-Cat appear in the upcoming Dart Mini? I mean, how can he NOT?
- 3) Pass the Prozac: Okay, how tortuously long do I have to wait until my next DD-mini fix?

Just for the CD, I think John Cleary kicks ass.

If printed (lettercol screw-ups permitting), this will be in DD II #4, so I guess it's time to break out the knee pads and start shamelessly begging for a DD ongoing. Or how about a DEADLY DUO THEATER book? An Image guest star every issue! Like a super-hero talk show taping thing! DD has made Maul, Roman, Spawn, and (almost) Grunge likeable! (Or at the very least, one-shot tolerable.) This is not a tirade—seeing as how I couldn't care less about any of those guys anywhere else, that's pretty damn high praise, wouldn't you say? With strong publicity, this could be a cornerstone as far as getting Image characters over to the readers! Think about it, huh?

So until Neutron Bomb stands revealed as Homer Simpson, all hail Highbrow!

You can tell by the way I type this stuff when it comes to DD, I just can't get enough. (Alternate lyric: I won't rest until I see Lotta Topp near-buff)

Harry Simon
Las Vegas, NV

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

In the future where the Kid Avenger comes from everybody is the same race—mixed. With all of the inter-racial marriages, there became fewer and fewer racially pure people and in time those that were became a new minority. By the time the Kid came on the scene there was only one race, and racism was a thing of the past.

Lotta's hair color was one of the many color mistakes that worked their way into DDII #3. It was a situation of the book being so late that I had to send it to somebody else to color and they didn't reference the characters' colors properly. I'm not sure if it was a matter of them not being provided with proper reference or just what but the results were as you saw them.

1: As far as I know.

2: Yes but only briefly in the first issue.

3: Not too long (I hope) they'll probably show up in Savage Dragon shortly as it's about time that they get a chance to guest star in somebody else's book.

As for your "Image guest star every issue" suggestion—we've been doing that since the second issue of the first mini-series! So far we've had Maul (in DD#2), Roman (DD#3), Spawn (DDII#1), Dragon (DDII#2), Grunge (DDII#3) and Riptide (DDII#4). There are a couple of other stories in the works that also guest star other Image characters. They'll be part of the next mini-series whenever that happens.

Dear Erik,

And so the streak ends. A quick check of my computer's hard drive show that I overlooked my letter-hacking duties to Deadly Duo #21. Whoops.

And Deadly Duo #3 was near-complete bore. Missing were all the biting satires of issues past or complex insanity you have imbued in the book, Erik. Jeff Mariotte had a few good ideas, but they were lost in the midst of this overdrawn, overblown storyline. I think the problem is that the story reached too far. Getting together all the baddies in the Image Universe at one time and then having the Deadly Duo beat them with but the help of Grunge is asking a bit too much. In the past, Kill-Cat and Kid Avenger have fought laughable villains with small-time villainous plots. This story asks way too much of the reader in the way of suspension of disbelief.

Even the art turned me off in many places. UGH By the way, what happened to the letters column? That last page looked an AWFUL lot like the first!

Sincerely,
Augie De Blijck Jr.
North Haledon, NJ

There was a screw up at the printer or something and the book was running so late that there wasn't time to see everything. That's also why some of the charac-

ters' costume colors were off a bit—there just wasn't time to get proofs and make the proper corrections. With this issue I'm having it ship late so that those problems don't occur.

Dear Erik, Jeff and John,

What happened?

I usually like Jeff's writing. He was the best part about WildC.A.T.s Adventures and Backlash but this one was too... well, silly. The Deadly Duo has always been a funny comic but whereas some of the others threw the screwy duo into a traditional superhero situation to wreck havoc, this one had a teleporting toaster and a group of diverse villains who, uncharacteristically, hang out together and eat toast instead of going about with their own agendas. It stretched credibility to the breaking point, I'm afraid and lost me. This issue reminded me of the worst aspects of the first issue of this new series—the utter silliness of the whole situation.

The first mini-series was so consistent it was scary. Every issue was an over-the-top laugh riot. Of this new series, only issue two really shined and issues one and three were practically duds. John Cleary's art doesn't help. Whereas Andy Smith was able to make some of the ridiculousness and make it believable with his more realistic approach, Cleary makes scenes that would otherwise be believable completely ridiculous! His lack of working knowledge of human anatomy is appalling. It's as if Erik hired him solely because he was a Todd McFarlane clone rather than because he had anything else going for him. Todd's drawing skills are bad enough when it comes to drawing the human form but Cleary takes it to another level entirely. By basing his art on Todd's he is one step further from reality. Might I suggest to John that he take some time to crack the books and learn something about what he's doing before he gets to work on his next project? As an art student (and eventual comics pro—I hope) it makes me sad to see how low the standards have sunk for comic book artists (come to think of it, this may bode well for my future employment).

To top things off, the coloring this issue was terrible! All of the villains were completely wrong as were members of the supporting cast! Hell, Kill-Cat and Kid Avenger didn't even look right! The cover looked fine, if a little boring and straightforward.

I'm sorry that this is such a negative letter. I wish it didn't have to be. The Deadly Duo had such a strong beginning it's a shame to see it fall apart like this. The only thing really outstanding this issue was Chris Eliopoulos' lettering which was his usual superb.

Hoping for a better day,
Eric Lee
Chicago, IL

Ouch.

Obviously, I think you're being a little hard on everybody involved (heh, heh—he said "little hard on"). How did you like this issue?

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

Dear Mr. Larsen,

All I can say is "WOW!" DDII #3 was the best issue yet! If you're thinking about making an ongoing comic, may I suggest you get Jeff Mariotte to write it? He did a great job. I laughed out loud when I read that line about Charlie's Angels on page 10 panel 2.

John Cleary is getting even better! His drawing of Lotta on page 6 was the hottest looking girl I've ever seen in any comic book. It's just great. He deserves a raise. His drawings of Gen 13 were second only to J. Scott Campbell. If J. Scott ever leaves that book, the editors would be wise to look at John Cleary as a replacement.

My only gripe was the color. All the bad guys were colored wrong and there were several places where the colorists didn't even bother to color in the characters at all (like on page 9 panel 2 and page 14 panel 2). The color just wasn't up the usual high image standards.

Still, you guys should be pretty proud of this issue. It rocked!

Sincerely,
Skippy Davis
Mt. Vernon, WA

Thanks, Skippy! The guys here at Image would like to tell you how much we enjoy your peanut butter!

Dear Mr. Larsen,

John Cleary's art is generally an enjoyable, if weird, creation to view. 90% of his artwork in Deadly Duo (II) #3 was likeable. But that has got to be the worst version of Mako I've ever seen, truly. Course Mako was only in a couple panels, so it's a minor complaint.

As for the writing, everything was kosher except that darn toaster:

- (A) Why would Mr. No-name buy a toaster for a robbery (other than to further the plot)?
- (B) How can he control it so easily without previous knowledge of its workings?
- (C) How did Marcia Brady get a hold of the toaster anyway—did Mr. No-name just give it to her or what?
- (D) Why did Absorbing Junior try to absorb the power of an inanimate object if his powers don't work in that manner? (Most importantly)
- (E) How do I get a toaster like that—I love a perfectly-toasted english muffin!

Next month: Mega-Moist Madness! Magnificent! Christopher Roesler
Sparks, NV

A: Everybody likes toast. No-Name is no exception!

B: He's a smart cookie.

C: He was distracted.

D: He was disoriented from being teleported and thought that the toaster was a living being (sorry, that was the best I could come up with).

E: Just hang out at your local pawn shop—

nifty things arrive there on a regular basis!

Yeah, I know these answers are a bit lame. The real reason for all of the gaping plot holes is that we were doing an impeccable imitation of our closest competitors! It gets monotonous putting out all of those flawless comic books and we wanted to see what it was like to do things their way for a change!

Dear Erik & John,

There are a lot of different comics out there, but to tell you the truth some are good and others are ok. When I first saw Deadly Duo I was like "oh great, another one." When I first read it, it was the funniest and best comic I have ever read before. When people see this comic they think it is stupid, but then they read it, and they think it's just about the best comic ever put out. Just keep them coming, I hope that Deadly Duo can make it like X-Men, Superman, Spider-Man, and Batman. This comic kicks ASS big time. I love it and everyone that reads it agrees with me.

See ya,
John Fournace
Ft. Myers, FL

Amen.

Well, that's all folks! Thanks for reading the Deadly Duo and keep your eyes open for their further appearances in upcoming Image comics!

-Erik Larsen.

Last issue, due to an unforeseen printing error the final page of the letters column was omitted! Instead, the first page ran twice! So, get out your copies of issue #3, grab a pair of scissors and some glue and do your own repair job! Simply cut out the following page and paste it over the final page in last issue's letters column. Yeah, you just ruined two perfectly good comics but I sure do feel better! (And don't worry, mint copies of these issues of The Deadly Duo can be found at your local comic book store for a fraction of their original price!)

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

As far as hanging around and shooting the breeze goes—I encourage it. It gets old endlessly signing books and it's nice to spend some time talking with fans. Just be aware that at some conventions, the security people will try to move people along if too many folks are in the way.

Dear Erik & Co.,

The big problem with DD II #2 was the fumbled attempt at continuity. Okay, DD II #2 took place right between the last (sniff) Freak Force ish and TSD #20, right? I remind you that Rapture's leg was busted in both said books. Whoops. Barbaric miraculously regained his Fabio-esque locks, too. And Ricochet was back in her old costume. Okay, 'cause I'm your pal, here are three simple words to get the continuity cops off your back: Jerry the Inhabiter. You get a gold Star for effort, though, Erik.

The other thing that I question was the relevance of FF. Did any of the Freaks really have an impact on the story? Dart, definitely. Horridus's last line was funny. But the others were just gratuitous. Mighty Man, Ricochet, and SuperPatriot (Liberty & Justice), combined for a grand total of Zero words. It's bad enough that the FF book went down the proverbial tubes, but continuing to view the team makes it harder to accept. Kinda like a kid who sees his divorced parents together and harbors unrealistic, ultimately devastating dreams of a reconciliation.

That said, the premise was as hilarious as its predecessors. The lengths to which KC went to prove his manliness filled a few "BWAH-HA-HA" quotas on its own. Quality from cover to cover. This transcends a "good show!" Especially funny was Dart flirting with Kid, obviously for the express purpose of irking KC. How could the guy look "cute?" He was wearing full body armor!! You know, Dart and KC are getting a whole Road Runner-Wile E. Coyote thing going. KC is an inspiration to all of us who can only dream of an uberbabe to call our own. WE'RE BEHIND YA ALL THE WAY, KC!!! Wait. That came out wrong. Er, and another thing, the book made bold statements about today's society as it relates to male bonding and homophobia. I'm not sure what they were, though. I was too busy ogling Dart to care.

Speaking of Dart...wow. The best Dart to date, and that's no faint praise considering that other takes on Dart include Victor Bridges, formerly (sniff) of FF fame and that young fellow who does THE SAVAGE DRAGON. Take a bow, John. You know, I once read that Dragon's bestest buddy Frank was modeled after O.J. Simpson. Ironic, because here, Dart looked a smidgen like Nicole Brown Simpson. Especially on page 20, panel 3. (Sorry. I think one of Horde's leeches possessed me for a second. But I'm feeling much better now.)

Neutron Bob, huh? Lemme guess...bar bet gone awry? Hey, he was original, if nothing else (Cement Man would chew him up and spit him out, though). I loved Kid's brainstorm of beating him up with half of Chicago. Reminiscent of the time when Doctor Octopus thought he could kill Spider-Man by nuking

New York City. Classic stuff.

Fanboy stupid question time:

- 1) You guys showed a lot of confidence in John's work (and rightfully so, I might add) by running a center-fold pinup from last DD series's acclaimed Andy/Randy tandem. Was that to be the cover to The Deadly Duo #4? If so, it worked out for the best, because...
- 2) DD II #2 had one of the coolest covers in recent memory, but why was the moon green?
- 3) How was Kill-Cat cured from Laff-A-Lot's drug?
- 4) What's Dart real name? Yes, I missed this one, too.
- 5) What's Vic Bridges up to these days, anyhow? Arrgh!! Having... withdrawal... symptoms... Talking...like...Shatner...
- 6) Is there any Highbrow book I have failed to shamelessly plug?

A fine conclusion the Larsen legacy of DD scripts... for now, anyway. Of course, I'll stick around. After all the good-hearted fun this book has generated, you'd really have to work to f— it up (That's not a challenge).

Anyway, until Laff-A-Lot becomes the national spokesman for Prosaic, all hail Highbrow!

Pump up the valium,
Harry Simon
Las Vegas, NV

Would you believe that DDII #2 took place after Savage Dragon #21? (I didn't want to spoil the ending of that issue of TSD by saying the DD comic took place after it— then everybody would know that Dragon survived his battle with OverLord).

- 1: Yep. That was it.
- 2: Everybody knows that it's made of green cheese.
- 3: It wore off.
- 4: It's never been mentioned before. Her name is Jill August.
- 5: Vic's currently working for Disney and watching TV.
- 6: In this letter? Star and the upcoming Vanguard series.

As always, thanks for reading and keep those cards and letters coming!

-Erik Larsen.

Next: Youngblood Strikefile contributors (and Star writers and SuperPatriot scripters) Tom and Mary Bierbaum bring their considerable writing skills along with Youngblood's mega-moist centerfold: Riptide to the pages of the Deadly Duo! See the making of a major motion picture! Meet those impostors who pose as our heroes! Thrills! Action! Suspense! Stunt Dogs! This one has it all! Highly recommended!